GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1225
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
BASIC TELEPHONE OPERATORS
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private companies which have been issued licences to provide basic telephones and the number out of them are functioning at present; and

(b) the targetted Village Public Telephones (VPTs) for year 2000-2001 and the number of VPTs provided by the private companies till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) So far there are six private companies, which have been issued licences to provide basic telephone services and all of them are functional at present.

(b) The information regarding targeted Village Public Telephones (VPTs) for the first three years of their licence and the number of VPTs actually provided, as reported by these private companies till date, is enclosed in Annexure -I.

ANNEXURE - I

PROVISION OF VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES (VPTs) BY PRIVATE LICENSEES (AS ON 31.10.2000)

Sl. No. Licenced Circle	Licence and Effective date of licence	Committed targets for VPTs in first three years (As per obligations) under licence agreement. 1st 3 years			Total No. of in committed VPTs till date	No. of VPTs actually provided
		I Year	II Year	III Year		
M/s Tata Teleservices						
(Andhra Pradesh)	30.9.1997 (by 30.9.98)	9635	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e by 30.9.1998)		9635	Nil
M/s Reliance Telecom	30.9.1997	8635	-do-		8635	Nil
(Gujarat)	(by 30.9.98)					
M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	30.9.1997	5442				
(Punjab)	(by 30.9.1998)	-do-			5442	Nil
M/s Hughes Tele.Com (I) Ltd. Maharashtra	30.9.1997 (by 30.9.1998)	4000 (by 30.9.1998)	21760 No village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99		25760	Nil
M/s Bharti Telenet	30.9.1997	5500	5500	5500	16500	315
(Madhya Pradesh)	(by 30.9.1998)	(by 30.9.1998)	(by 30.9.1998)			
M/s Shyam Telelink						
(Rajasthan)	04.3.1998 (by 04.3.1999)	7439 (by 04.3.2000)	10629 (by 04.3.2001)	13766	31834 (36727)	51
Total		40651	37889	19266	97806	366

Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

Total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee`s commitment of 36727.